

# THE MORNING NEWS

Your Source for local news in English

Caya G.F. Betico Croes 111 T. 588-9517 F. 5889518.

## Aruba Tourism Authority celebrates their partners and stakeholders



Minister Oduber, Ronella Tjin Asjoe Croes and the ATA staffers

ORANJESTAD -- It is a tradition on Aruba among many business entities to kick-off a new year with a festive networking session with employees and various partners. The Aruba Tourism Authority, (ATA) which was privatized in 2010, observed this savvy custom with an elegant event at the Papiamentu restaurant on Wednesday evening, January 29.

Welcoming the top movers and shakers of Aruba's tourism, along with island dignitaries, was the CEO of the ATA, Ronella Tjin Asjoe-Croes, flanked by her CFO, Mas van Drie and top executives Sanju Luidens and Dyane Vis.

Parliamentarians, media and representatives of members of the Aruba Hotel and Tourism Association, (AHATA) which works closely with the ATA in promoting the island and improving its tourism product, enjoyed a stylish cocktail event around the Papiamentu restaurant pool.

Addressing the gathering was the ATA CEO and the Minister of Tourism, Transport, Primary Sector and Culture, Otmar Oduber.

The minister singled out their essential partners, AHATA, Aruba Ports Authority (APA) and the Aruba Airport Authority, (AAA) with heartfelt gratitude for their ef-

forts and cooperation. "The figures show that the right decisions were taken," he told them, and asked all present to give themselves a round of applause for their combined success.

"I have to say, for the coming years, we have set many ambitious goals...but we know they are realistic also. We know that we have a great product, a great service that is offered to visitors to the island and great properties, though, of course, we can always make it better. That is the line of thinking, the goal we have set for the coming years."

"We have seen a successful airlift strategy combined with the AAA, and of course today we are reaping the results with good news from Southwest Airlines this week." He revealed tourism figures for cruise ship passengers, stay-over visitors and increased room revenues that are highly encouraging for the economy, citing a general tourism revenue increase of 6% in 2013 over 2012 reported by the Central Bank of Aruba, for only the first three quarters of the year.

Continued on pg 5

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## US to seek death penalty for accused Boston bomber

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The United States is to seek the death penalty for accused Boston bomber Dzhokhar Tsarnaev if he is convicted of involvement in the deadly attack, Attorney General Eric Holder said Thursday.

"The nature of the conduct at issue and the resultant harm compel this decision," Holder said in a statement on the prosecution of the 20-year-old, a US citizen from a Chechen Muslim family.

Three people were killed and around 260 wounded on April 15 last year when two bombs made of explosives-packed pressure cookers exploded near the finish line of the Boston marathon.

Tsarnaev, then 19, and his 26-year-old brother Tamerlan Tsarnaev were cornered by police after a four-day manhunt. Tamerlan died after an exchange of fire with police and Dzhokhar was wounded.

The shaggy-haired one-time student has pleaded guilty to 30 federal charges related to the bombings, including 17 serious charges that can carry sentences of death or of life in prison.

These charges include using a weapon of mass destruction resulting in death, as well as conspiracy and bombing of a place of public use resulting in death, and carjacking.

Tsarnaev is also charged in connection with the shooting death of a campus police officer at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology during the brothers' wild overnight getaway attempt.

The brothers are said to have built the bombs with help from an online Al-Qaeda magazine, but they are not accused of having received help from any organized foreign terror group.

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## Mike and Teresa renew their vows on beautiful Aruba



was going to be a ceremony on the beach. Diane replied she was waiting for a couple to do a 25 year Renewal of Vow ceremony, and perhaps they knew the couple, Mike and Teresa. Teresa looked at Mike, took a deep breath, shed a tear, gave Mike a big hug, and they all walked to the beach in front of their table for two, for a truly memorable personalized ceremony. Avril, their server, gladly took their camera and photographed the joy and love between them as they reconfirmed their vows and had their rings blessed again, which this time embraced their two children Michael and Danielle as a family together, who were back home in Chicago, as were their dogs Snowy and Stacie. After they signed their gold trimmed keepsake certificate, Diane gave them each a shell to make a wish on which they then threw into the sea, and they went back to their table for their celebration dinner served by waitress/photographer Avril. What better place than Aruba to celebrate an anniversary with a beach blessing, and dinner, at Passion's Restaurant at sunset! Congratulations!



Mike's plan to surprise his wife Teresa worked out perfectly. A reservation was set for dinner on the beach at Passion's Restaurant for 6:00 with arrival at 5:30 for them to first have a cocktail at the

bar. Also pre-arranged was that Officiant Diane Keijzer would be waiting at the entrance with a bouquet of local flowers in her hand, and when Mike and Teresa passed her, Mike would ask if there



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## At Tropicana Resort & Casino Mr. Marks and Mrs. Hines honored as Ambassadors of Goodwill



Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a very special couple whom are loyal and friendly Visitors of Aruba, at the Tropicana Resort and Casino as Ambassadors of Goodwill. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 20 or more consecutive years.

The honorees were Mr. Berle Marks and Mrs. Rosemary Hines from Baltimore MD. Berle and Rosemary are loyal members of the Tropicana Resort and they love Aruba very much because of the friendly people, the climate, beaches, restaurants, great entertainment and being on Aruba and staying at the Tropicana is like being home for them.

The certificates were presented by Mr. Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with Mr. Brian Stedeford GM and Ms. Jacky Feliciano Assistant GM at the Tropicana Resort and Casino.

## Minister of Culture Oduber depicts Betico Croes as social, family oriented and athletic

ORANJESTAD -- Last Saturday, on Betico Day, Minister of Tourism, and Culture, Otmar Oduber had the honor of directing a few words during the ceremony at the Plaza Betico Croes. The Minister in his speech emphasized the social, family oriented and athletic aspects of this great leader of our country. In this manner Oduber highlighted an aspect much different of this great leader.

Oduber began by saying that today we commemorate for the 22nd time consecutively the birthday of one of our greatest politicians, who dedicated his life for the welfare of the community and struggled for what is to be the destiny of each citizen on this island.

He continued... "today I want to remember Betico Croes as a humble and tranquil person. His political life we have heard about for years, how that together with others he achieved our Apart Status which we are all benefiting from today. Betico was not only a politician, he was also a person who loved his culture, he loved his music, and loved sports and was very active on the social field both locally and abroad." said Otmar Oduber.

The Minister shared that during Betico's years in Holland as a student, from there he demonstrated his love for culture. There he began a musical group and upon his return to Aruba he continued this. Up to this day we can still feel his roots in the Grupo di Betico musical group.

In Aruba, Betico was part of different sports groups,



such as table tennis and football. Despite his busy schedule with politics, he always made time to dedicate to other facets of our culture and to sports on Aruba.

Oduber also mentioned that Betico Croes was the person who revived our

Dande, which last year celebrated its 40th Festival of Dande.

Oduber appealed to those present to reflect on the life of this great politician who dedicated his life for Aruba. He sacrificed his family during certain moments so as to dedicate time to his country.

The Minister also recalled a familiar anecdote that was told by one of the children of Betico, which typifies the life of Betico and reflects on each politician on Aruba. When Betico's children were still very young one day he told them that he would take them out as a family for a ride. They went on this ride, indeed, but underway he stopped, chatted and stayed by families and dedicated more time to other families along the way than to his own family. This demonstrates the love that Betico had for his family, Aruba was his family. This sentiment should be reflected on each politician living on our island.



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## Tumba Festival with 41 singers this year! Aruba's 60th Carnaval Tumba Contest is this Saturday Feb. 1st

44 Tumba Festival 2014

BAND	SINGER	TITLE - SONG	COMPOSER	ARRANGER
1. Zeta Band	Richard Quant "Tattoo"	Boca Abou	Richard Quant - John Leoneta	Raul Piar
2. Tsunami	Amousha Odor	10 pa 60	Jersey Isenia	Jersey Isenia
3. Upgrade Music	Carimcheal Bicker	Tim Fiesta	Jersey Isenia	Raul Piar
4. Upgrade Music	Carimcheal Bicker	Caya E Ta Ba	Jersey Isenia	Rodney yid Buzen
5. Solo Banda Show	Jeffrey Kelly	E Flar Di Mas Bunta	Jersey Isenia	Dwight Leoneta
6. Solo Banda Show	Jeffrey Kelly	E Karsito	Jersey Isenia	Los Hies Del Sol-Oswald Tromp
7. Solo Banda Show	Jeffrey Kelly	Tumbology	Jersey Isenia	Jonathan Thiel
8. Solo Banda Show	Jeffrey Kelly	Honor Na Deda	Jersey Isenia	Dwight Leoneta - Jordany Koolman
9. Solo Banda Show	Jeffrey Kelly	Brasa Ba Cu Na	Jersey Isenia	Robert Jeandor
10. Solo Banda Show	Jeffrey Kelly	Ala Curakon A Jeja	Jersey Isenia	Jonathan Thiel
11. Solo Banda Show	Jeffrey Kelly	Huerto Nos Ta Granda	Jersey Isenia	Raul Piar
12. Solo Banda Show	Jeffrey Kelly	Aruba Ta Bendiciona	Jersey Isenia	Jersey Isenia
13. Solo Banda Show	Jeffrey Kelly	Aruba Ta Di Nos Tur	Jersey Isenia	Jersey Isenia
14. Solo Banda Show	Jeffrey Kelly	Caya Cu Na	Jersey Isenia	Jersey Isenia
15. Solo Banda Show	Jeffrey Kelly	Palabra Cla	Jersey Isenia	Jersey Isenia
16. Solo Banda Show	Jeffrey Kelly	Cos Ben So	Jersey Isenia	Jersey Isenia
17. Solo Banda Show	Jeffrey Kelly	San Rabbu	Jersey Isenia	Jersey Isenia
18. Solo Banda Show	Jeffrey Kelly	Pone Pia Abou	Jersey Isenia	Jersey Isenia
19. Solo Banda Show	Jeffrey Kelly	Buena Tria E Pa Ben	Jersey Isenia	Jersey Isenia
20. Solo Banda Show	Jeffrey Kelly	Ganga Mi Pa Bo Ganga Mi	Jersey Isenia	Jersey Isenia
21. Solo Banda Show	Jeffrey Kelly	Mi Tumba Ta Tri	Jersey Isenia	Jersey Isenia
22. Solo Banda Show	Jeffrey Kelly	Ki Alegria	Jersey Isenia	Jersey Isenia
23. Solo Banda Show	Jeffrey Kelly	Pachanti Nos Ta Ba	Jersey Isenia	Jersey Isenia
24. Solo Banda Show	Jeffrey Kelly	Huerto Nos Bida Tun Odra a Man	Jersey Isenia	Jersey Isenia
25. Solo Banda Show	Jeffrey Kelly	Huerto Nos Man nan	Jersey Isenia	Jersey Isenia
26. Solo Banda Show	Jeffrey Kelly	Dymche Pa Nan	Jersey Isenia	Jersey Isenia
27. Solo Banda Show	Jeffrey Kelly	Pati Den Tres	Jersey Isenia	Jersey Isenia
28. Solo Banda Show	Jeffrey Kelly	Nos Tambe Tay Pa Cebra	Jersey Isenia	Jersey Isenia
29. Solo Banda Show	Jeffrey Kelly	Paraiso	Jersey Isenia	Jersey Isenia
30. Solo Banda Show	Jeffrey Kelly	Legs Orens Eyden	Jersey Isenia	Jersey Isenia
31. Solo Banda Show	Jeffrey Kelly	E Jala Maestre	Jersey Isenia	Jersey Isenia
32. Solo Banda Show	Jeffrey Kelly	Aki Ma Comuna	Jersey Isenia	Jersey Isenia
33. Solo Banda Show	Jeffrey Kelly	Camara Ta Bidi Di Gata	Jersey Isenia	Jersey Isenia
34. Solo Banda Show	Jeffrey Kelly	Drecha Mi Pa Mi Ba	Jersey Isenia	Jersey Isenia
35. Solo Banda Show	Jeffrey Kelly	Pueblo	Jersey Isenia	Jersey Isenia
36. Solo Banda Show	Jeffrey Kelly	Dania Mi Pueblo	Jersey Isenia	Jersey Isenia
37. Solo Banda Show	Jeffrey Kelly	Biba Cu Regia	Jersey Isenia	Jersey Isenia
38. Solo Banda Show	Jeffrey Kelly	60 Dos Placa Placa Placa	Jersey Isenia	Jersey Isenia
39. Solo Banda Show	Jeffrey Kelly	La Mi Mera Ta E Sus	Jersey Isenia	Jersey Isenia



SAC (Aruba Carnaval Foundation) is very happy with the enthusiasm around the 44th Tumba Festival. A total of 41 singers inscribed to participate in the song contest. There will be 17 participating bands. The Tumba Contest will take place tomorrow, Saturday, February 1st, 8 p.m. at Aruba's Entertainment Center. Photos depict the participants during the inscription.

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## Mosquito Dunks: A non-toxic solution for mosquito problems now available on Aruba



ORANJESTAD – The increase of mosquitoes on Aruba should be a matter of concern for everyone living on and visiting the island. This time year, after the rainy season, they have proliferated due to the increase in standing water. Aside from being annoying, the mosquitoes can also transmit contagious diseases. In 2013, Venezuela closed off the year with a historic 40% increase of reported malaria and dengue cases, which is quite alarming for health and prevention bureaus.

The Aruba Health Department also reports the Chikungunya virus situation in the Caribbean region is on the rise; in 1 month almost 300 cases were detected. Chikungunya is a viral disease transmitted to humans by mosquitoes carrying the virus. It causes fever and severe joint pain. Other symptoms include muscle pain, headache, nausea, fatigue and rash. The disease shares some clinical signs with dengue, and can be misdiagnosed in areas where dengue is common. There is no cure for the disease. Treatment is focused on relieving the symptoms. The worst case scenario, which health departments will usually extrapolate, is that the Chikungunya virus

can adapt itself easily to the environment, which makes it immune for treatment.

There is, however, a non-toxic solution now available on Aruba that can help with this situation: Mosquito Dunks.

Mosquito Dunks are shaped like donuts that float in water and dissolves slowly. A single Mosquito Dunk contains larvacide, a chemical used only for killing mosquito larvae. The active ingredient is a *Bacillus Thuringiensis* Subspecies, *Israelensis* (B.T.I.), an organic bacteria that kills mosquito larvae, but is harmless to people and animals, other insects, pets, birds, fish and fauna. It is safer than using chemicals like kerosene, which affects the environment and is highly flammable.

A Mosquito Dunk covers an area of 10 square meters, lasts for 30 days and is ideal to use in places with stagnant water or other areas that can become breeding grounds, such as wells, cesspools, fountains, plant pots, barrels, water puddles, ponds, or any other object that can hold water for a long period.

Mosquito Dunk kills all kind of mosquito larvae. They come in packages of 20 and are available exclusively at Nature's Discount.



## Aruba Tourism Authority celebrates...

Cont. from pg 1



ATA welcoming committee



Ronella Tjin Asjoe Croes



The final and busiest quarter, including two major winter holidays, has yet to be factored in.

"But we can do better," continued Minister Oduber,

"in the sense of working together and channeling all our efforts in the same direction, analyzing what we have been doing for the last four years." He professed a commitment

by the government, and himself personally, to closely listen to their partners when approached, and continue to base their decisions on the advice of their partners in the private sector of the tourism industry.

Mrs. Tjin Asjoe-Croes reported that the ATA is very pleased and excited by the creativity and success of initiatives implemented over the past year, and the rise in numbers that have resulted. "I am a very proud CEO," she told her team at ATA. "Over the past year, we have not only been able to meet, but exceed our objectives."

"We are committed," she told the resort GM's and executives present, "and please know you can continue to count on the ATA for support. Danki for your commitment and dedication...it is only through a close collaboration and partnership we have been able to attain such tremendous results."

"Tourism is a dynamic industry. The business of tourism marketing is becoming increasingly complex," she continued. "Though it is a moment to celebrate, it is also a moment to realize that our results are not to be taken for granted. It is a result of your efforts, day in, day out and what we put in, day in, day out. It is an effort of policies...and tremendous dedication," she concluded.

By Rosalie Klein



### Early Bird Menu

5:30 pm - 7:00 pm



**Appetizers:** Stuffed Avocado, Escargots Bourguignon, (choose one) Fruits of the Seven Seas, Choices of Soups

**Entrees:** Breaded Grouper topped with coconut shrimps served with rice and vegetables

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#### Breaded Chicken Breast

served with mushroom sauce, topped with cheese served with vegetables and stuffed potato

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## Government signs agreement to continue beautification of Baby Beach



The second phase of the beautification of Baby Beach will continue in February. This project falls under the Ministry of Tourism and received the green light from the Minister of Finance to continue with the second phase. Last Wednesday the signing took place in the presence of representative of Bic NV, Anthony Thiel, who is the local contractor in charge of the project. Thiel expects the project to be completed within the stipulated time.

The second phase of the

project runs from just above the old tennis court up to the Pet Cemetery, passing through the middle of the grape trees so as to conserve the existing vegetation.

The cost of this project, estimated at 1.7 million Florins, will be financed by funds from the Fondo Desarrollo Arubano (FDA). The entire parking lot and road will be reconstructed with concrete. This is upon the advice of DOW engineers. They are taking into account the corrosion from salt water. Concrete is much more resistant to salt water than asphalt.

The project, to be built with concrete and fiber, will have a walking path and a stone wall as a separation between the beach and road. There will also be an area for depositing trash. Coconut and grape trees will line the area. The entire project is scheduled to be completed around July 10th. Bic NV will again submit a quality project on time and keeping within the standards set by DOW, Bic N.V.'s director said.





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## Apple, Walmart join Obama's pledge on long-term jobless

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Apple, Ford and Walmart will Friday lead 300 US companies ready to sign up to President Barack Obama's pledge not to discriminate against long-term unemployed job seekers.

Obama said he will meet representatives of the firms at the White House on Friday to agree on a series of best practices designed to halt discrimination against those who have been out of work for months or even years in the wake of the financial crisis.

"We know that one of the biggest problems right now

in the jobs market is the long-term unemployed," Obama told CNN.

"Folks are looking at that gap in the resume and they are weeding them out before these folks even get a chance at an interview."

He said that among the companies committing to the pledge were the top 50 in the country.

The initiative is part of Obama's pledge made in his State of the Union address this week to take executive actions to ease the disparity gap between the rich and poor in America.

## Top US Republican: 'Time to deal with' immigration

CAMBRIDGE (AFP) - US House Speaker John Boehner gathered fellow congressional Republicans to plan the party's future on Thursday, saying the time had come for his members to help pass immigration reform.

Most experts agree the Republicans' low level of support among voters of recent immigrant stock cost their candidates badly in recent elections, and the party is under pressure to reach out.

But many within the party ranks fear that passing legislation to help regularize the situation of millions of undocumented migrants could hurt them with voters from their white conservative base.

Some lawmakers are resisting Boehner and the party leadership's call to move on immigration, and the party must decide whether to risk an internal fight before November's congressional elections.

One possible compromise would be for the party to agree basic principles on immigration reform but postpone a vote on any new law until a new Congress sits in 2015.

Secluded at a bayside hotel on Maryland's Eastern Shore for a three-day retreat, the Republican majority in House of Representatives

was thrashing out guidelines for candidates.

Republican aides signalled that party leaders are circulating policy proposals that included a pathway to legal status -- but not citizenship -- for many of the 11 million people living in the shadows.

"This problem has been around for at least the last 15 years. It's been turned into a political football," Boehner told reporters on the sidelines of the closed-door sessions.

"I think it's unfair, so I think it's time to deal with it. But how you deal with it is going to be critically important."

Republican leaders have acknowledged the need for reform, citing the party's low support among a growing Hispanic community.

But they have stressed they will proceed piecemeal rather than allowing a single grand reform bill to pass, while approving separate legislation to address issues like improving border security.

Boehner would not be drawn on whether the proposals address the critical legalization-versus-citizenship issue.

"We're going to talk to our members today about the principles that the leadership team has put together," he said.

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## US says Syria 'dragging its feet' on chemical weapons

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The United States accused the Syrian regime Thursday of dragging its feet over its chemical weapons stockpile and urged Damascus to immediately hand over the cache as promised for destruction. Top US officials voiced concern that a deadline set with Damascus to remove the most dangerous chemical arms from the country had been missed by a month.

"Syria must immediately take... the necessary actions to comply with its obligations," said State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki. The world's chemical watchdog said Wednesday that Damascus had handed over less than five percent of the most dangerous chemicals in its armory.

## Clinton prohibitive White House favorite... again

WASHINGTON (AFP) - It's as if the last seven years never happened: Hillary Clinton is the prohibitive early Democratic favorite in the White House race.

A Washington Post poll Thursday had Clinton obliterating the potential Democratic field and showed she would handily dispatch scandal-dented Republican hopeful Chris Christie in a 2016 general election.

Still, the fact that Clinton is leading polls at this early stage hardly means she'll burst through the glass ceiling in which she said she made 13 million cracks in the 2008 White House race.

Clinton was the heavy early favorite for the Democratic nomination in 2008 -- until the phenom known as Barack Obama exploded into life just before voting started

and snatched away the prize.

While there appear to be no rock star candidates hiding in the wings this time around, the lesson of 2008 is that apparent "inevitability" does not guarantee victory.

Polls this early in a presidential race -- when no candidates are yet declared, though several are mulling runs -- are notoriously unreliable.

What is clear, though, is that if she does give it another go, any Democrat taking Clinton on could be in for a rough ride.

According to the survey, the former secretary of state would trounce her closest possible rival, Vice President Joe Biden, in a primary race. She currently leads him 73 percent to 12 percent among Democrats and independents who lean Democratic.



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## Italian court again convicts Knox, Sollecito for murder

FLORENCE (AFP) - A court in Florence on Thursday sentenced American student Amanda Knox to 28 years and six months in prison for the murder of her British housemate in 2007 in the latest dramatic twist in the high-profile case.

The court, after 12 hours of deliberations, also found Knox's former Italian boyfriend Raffaele Sollecito guilty for killing Meredith Kercher in the university town of Perugia and sentenced him to 25 years.

Knox was following the proceedings from her hometown of Seattle in the United States, where she has lived since a previous acquittal in 2011.

"It was a real blow," said her lawyer, Luciano Ghirga.

Experts say it is extremely unlikely Knox could be extradited even if the sentence is upheld by the supreme court, although her freedom of movement outside the United States could be severely curtailed.

Sollecito was also not in court for the verdict, although he attended a hearing earlier on



Thursday.

Nencini ordered that Sollecito's passport be withdrawn to stop him leaving the country.

This conviction was based on nothing. It's absurd. Raffaele Sollecito is innocent," Sollecito's lawyer, Luca Maori, told reporters after the verdict.

Maori said he would appeal to the supreme court.

Leeds University exchange student Kercher was found dead in the house she shared with Knox on November 2, 2007 in mediaeval Perugia in central Italy.

Explaining her decision not to return to Italy, Knox, 26, told the New York Times: "I would be putting myself in the hands of people who very

clearly want me in prison for something that I didn't do."

Kercher's family were also in Italy for the ruling.

Speaking ahead of the verdict, her 34-year-old brother Lyle said: "We are not going to get closure today, so there won't be any celebration on our part, but it's hopefully a step towards reaching a conclusion."

Knox, Sollecito and a third person, drug dealer Rudy Guede, were initially convicted for the crime, which prosecutors said was the result of a sex game turned violent due to tensions between Kercher and Knox.

Guede is now the only one of the three still in prison after exhausting his appeals but investigators say that multiple stab wounds on the body from two different knives indicate he could not have acted alone.

Knox and Sollecito have always protested their innocence and Guede has changed his story several times but maintains he did not commit the murder although he was in the house when it happened.

## Drug trafficking ravages Central American forests

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Drug trafficking in Central America is emerging as a major threat to forests, as smugglers cut trees for secret roads, landing strips and fake farms to launder money, researchers said Thursday.

This widespread environmental abuse in remote regions of Honduras, Guatemala and Nicaragua is a direct result of US anti-drug policies, experts wrote in the journal Science.

"In response to the crack-down in Mexico, drug traffickers began moving south into Central America around 2007 to find new routes through remote areas to move their drugs from South America and get them to the United States," said lead author Kendra McSweeney, a geography professor at Ohio State University.

"When drug traffickers moved in, they brought ecological devastation with them."

Drug traffickers carve out spaces in the forest where they can build secret shipping networks.

They pay bribes to locals and prosecutors and clear trees to make farmland or oil-palm plantations, but the land actually serves as a front to help launder drug money.

Researchers found that an-

nual deforestation quadrupled in Honduras from 2007 and 2011, just as cocaine trafficking in the country also rose dramatically.

When McSweeney, who has done research in Honduras over the past two decades, asked local people what was causing the deforestation, "they would tell us: 'los narcos,'" or drug traffickers, she said.

She said another telltale sign was the unusual requests from locals to get change for \$20 bills, in areas where US dollars are not the common currency.

"When that starts happening, you know narcos are there," she said.

The paper said that deforestation rates in Honduras, Guatemala, and Nicaragua have been among the highest in Latin America and the world since 2000.

After 2005, the rate of deforestation increased, particularly in the biodiversity hotspot known as the Caribbean lowlands of the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor.

More study is needed to confirm the full extent of the link between US anti-drug policies and deforestation in other countries, McSweeney said.

## US says 92 nuclear officers tied to cheating scandal

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The US Air Force said on Thursday that 92 nuclear missile officers are now implicated in a widening scandal over cheating on exams and have been suspended from their duties.

Air Force Secretary Deborah Lee James said she returned from a visit to missile bases convinced there were "systemic problems" among crew members related to morale, referring to a climate of "undue stress and fear."

"As the investigation has moved forward, we can now report there is a total of 92 crew members that have been identified as having some

level of involvement," James told a news conference.

"That means either participating in the cheating or knowing something about it and not standing up and reporting it," she said.

Two weeks ago, officials said 34 officers were implicated at Malmstrom Air Force base in Montana.

The mounting scandal, as well as other incidents, have prompted commanders to put a hold on any promotions of senior officers in the nuclear mission, a defense official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, told AFP.

The cheating was discov-

ered when criminal investigators looking into illegal drug possession among missile launch officers stumbled upon evidence of cheating on a monthly proficiency test at the Montana base.

The investigators found one officer had the answers to a monthly proficiency test on his mobile phone and had sent them to his fellow crew members.

James said the illicit drug case has also widened and now two more officers have been implicated, bringing the total to 13 airmen tied to the probe.



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## Using peanuts to cure allergy

PARIS (AFP) - Doctors said Thursday they could treat peanut allergy by feeding children the very thing their bodies reject, so building tolerance that could save a life in case of accidental ingestion.

Small doses of peanut powder taken over several months seemed to induce tolerance in children with the potentially deadly allergy, a research team wrote Wednesday in *The Lancet* medical journal.

After six months of treatment, dubbed oral immunotherapy or OIT, 84-91 percent of the children in a trial could safely tolerate daily doses of 800 mg (0.03 ounces) of peanut powder -- the equivalent of about five peanuts, wrote the team.

This was 25 times the amount they could tolerate before the therapy, and much larger than any accidental dose is likely to ever be.

"The treatment allowed chil-



dren with all severities of peanut allergy to eat large quantities of peanuts, well above the levels found in contaminated snacks and meals, freeing them and their parents from the fear of a potentially life threatening allergic reaction," said study leader Andrew Clark from Cambridge University Hospitals.

The trial involved 99 allergic children aged seven to sixteen.

One in five of the kids receiving OIT reported "adverse events" -- mostly mild itching of the mouth, the authors said.

*They stressed that people*

*should not try the treatment at home as more research was needed.*

Peanut allergy affects about one in fifty children and is the most common cause of fatal food allergy reactions, said a press statement. About 10 million people around the world are allergic to peanuts.

Symptoms vary from mild to severe, from swollen lips or shortness of breath to anaphylactic shock, which can be fatal.

"It is unknown if OIT can produce lasting tolerance," he wrote.

## Hospital honors team members who excelled in 2013



ORANJESTAD - During a spectacular festive evening the "Hulpverleners team" (HVT), (assistant service team), of the Dr. Horacio Oduber Hospital honored 11 of their team members who excelled during the year 2013.

They celebrated at the Piedra Plat Entertainment Center with great dance music, food and drinks.


During the festive evening, the HVT, which consists of 100 members, honored 11 members who, among others,

complied with filling out the fire control check list, gave training and participated faithfully at all obligatory training, according to Milka Schoop, Manager of the Safety Department of the Hospital.

From the 11 excellent colleagues they chose one as the winner, Danilo Webb. Danilo received a weekend stay at the Radisson Resort as the winning prize. This prize he received from Mr. Theo Kool, also from John Fun and Milka Schoop. Danilo also received a trophy from his colleagues. Second place winner was John Ras, who received special recognition as well as a one day pass to De Palm Island for two persons. Third place winner was Julienne Garcia, who won a dinner for two at Mango's along with a gift. The other colleagues Arellys Kelly-Gonzalez, Renita Blinderling, Andre Kolman, Gerit Besselink, Gino Paskel, Victor Kock, Gladys Boekhoudt and Carina Kelly, all received a breakfast for two and a gift for each of them.

Of the members of the HVT who excelled in 2013, 11 of them are team leaders and one is a member of the HVT. The team works with an incentive point system and twice per year each member receives a bonus.

The Staff and personnel of the Hospital congratulates these members of the HVT for their excellent work and encourages them to continue with the same energy and dedication.



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## Doctors try bringing Schumacher out of coma

GRENOBLE (AFP) - French doctors have started trying to bring Formula One legend Michael Schumacher out of the induced coma he was placed in after a near-fatal ski accident in December.

The drugs used to keep Schumacher, 45, unconscious have begun to be reduced, though it may be some time yet before he comes to, his spokeswoman, Sabine Kehm, said in a statement released on Thursday.

It was unclear when the waking-up process actually began or when it was scheduled to be completed. The first report that it was underway came on Sunday in France's *Journal du Dimanche* and a subsequent flurry of similar media reports prompted the family to make a statement.

Schumacher has been in intensive care in Grenoble University Hospital since being flown there by helicopter following his December 29 accident in the Alpine resort of Meribel.

The German fell and hit his head against a rock after venturing on to a small off-piste section while skiing with his

son and a group of friends.

The impact of the collision was sufficiently powerful to split the helmet he was wearing and cause severe head injuries.

Surgeons said he suffered bleeding and bruising on his brain and a scan showed "widespread lesions". After the surgery he was placed in a medically induced coma and his body temperature was cooled to reduce the risk of further damage.

Another surgery was carried out on December 30 to reduce bleeding.

There has been no indication as to whether Schumacher has a chance of making a full recovery.

Experts have underlined that it is rare to keep a patient in an artificial coma for more than three weeks and have stressed that the next phase of his recovery is likely to be complicated and fraught with the risk of setbacks.

Bernard Vigue of the University Hospital Centre at Bicetre near Paris said Schumacher could have months, if not years, of therapy ahead of him.

## Let's Be Dengue Free





## 5 Burgers Aruba: Now your best breakfast bargain!



**Delicious Breakfast**

--A favorite stop for a great burger for lunch or dinner has just expanded their hours and menu to offer some of the best breakfast bargains to be found in Palm Beach. Owners Aaron and Rosie Walisever are living their dream: a home on para-

dise while welcoming all and sundry to their proud undertaking. 5 Burgers Aruba. The couple's fanatical dedication to giving their customers what they really want has resulted in a unique menu from an internationally known franchise with a "5", which now includes breakfast.

"You never get a second chance to make a first impression," believes Aaron. Upon entering 5 Burgers Aruba in The Village Mall in Palm Beach, one is struck by utterly spotless surroundings and a smiling, friendly, attentive service crew. Of course, the main item on the menu is burgers-the way they were meant to be, thick and juicy, made fresh daily and 100% pure beef, the kind that made the hamburger a traditional American treat.

However, beginning at

8am, patrons can now order 2 eggs any style (omelets with 3 fillings are \$7.99) and toast for a price of only \$4.99 or All You Can Eat Pancakes for \$6.99! A new plate called the "Home Run" comes with 2 eggs, bacon or sausage, 2 pancakes, toast & home fries - for only \$9.99! Best of all - unlimited coffee or tea - that is, refillable and never ending is only \$.79! Breakfast is served from 8am until noon. Famous for their fries made from fresh potatoes, Aaron has been working for months on devising the most irresistible home fries recipe, chunky and tender with skins still on; after much testing and tasting, he got the thumbs up from his harshest critic, Rosie, so this is another treat you have to try.

A glance at their burger menu will certainly tempt you to return for lunch or dinner, to sample their famous specialty items such as the Gouda, Farmer's or Man Burger (almost 12 ounces of choice

beef), and a Western Burger with Aarons' secret-recipe crispy onion rings. All of these can be personalized with an incredible array of toppings, (mushrooms, jala-peño peppers, bacon, cheese, lettuce, tomato...whatever, the list goes on) at absolutely no extra cost.

5 Burger portions are



ENORMOUS! Aaron suggests that even their small serving of fries is enough to be shared by two. He was very amused to

watch a famous French chef demonstrating the best way to make fried potatoes on a gourmet cooking show and could only comment "He stole my recipe!"

Try them the English way-with vinegar, and you'll wonder how you ever ate fries without it. This same 5-star chef also swears by Gouda as the best topping for the ideal gourmet cheeseburger.

**5 Burgers is now open early until 10-ish Sunday-Thursdays; and until 3am on Friday & Saturdays.**

**Delivery is available to most Hotels and most beaches!** Enjoy a great lunch without ever leaving the beach by calling 586-3904. However, we suggest you stop by and enjoy their authentic, heartfelt hospitality; it is not unusual for either owner to sit and chat, sharing their knowledge of the island while making sure patrons are happy with their meal.

## Police charge Justin Bieber with assault



TORONTO (AFP) - Troubled heartthrob pop star Justin Bieber was charged Wednesday with assaulting a limousine driver, Canadian police said, after the 19-year-old turned himself in with a crowd of female fans screaming their support.

The charges are the latest run-in with the law for the teen singer after his arrest in Miami Beach on January 23 for drag racing and impaired driving, and after his Los Angeles mansion was searched because he allegedly hurled eggs at a neighbor's house.

Social media lit up as word spread that Bieber had surrendered and adolescent fans, most of them female, thronged the police station.

Earlier, wearing a baseball cap turned backwards and a

black hooded winter coat, the singer entered the station in Toronto, escorted by officers who rushed him through a large crowd of screaming fans and journalists.

Fans rushed in holding up smartphones hoping to get a picture of the clean-cut, baby-faced young star turned tattooed, barely adult bad boy.

A girl screamed "I love you, Justin, I love you!" as dozens of cameras flashed to light up the night.

The singer has also gotten in trouble with the authorities in Australia and Brazil for spraying graffiti. In Brazil, Bieber was photographed emerging under a blanket from a notorious Rio brothel and later tried in vain to bring prostitutes into the posh Copacabana Palace.

Bieber said he was not guilty of the charges filed against him in Florida last week -- including drunk driving, resisting arrest and driving with an expired license.

In a filing by the pop star's attorneys to a Miami court, Bieber formally rejected the charges.

The White House, meanwhile, was asked to weigh in on Bieber's bad behavior after it received a petition with more than 100,000 signatures calling for the Canadian-born singer to be deported.

## Chula is looking for friends and family members

ORANJESTAD - We would like to introduce Chula to you, one of the donkeys that has found a home at the Aruban Donkey Sanctuary.

She is still a baby, born at the end of 2012. Her mother Coco came to live at the sanctuary early in 2012; she appeared to be pregnant after ten months. Our volunteers had noticed her rounded form, but they never suspected a pregnancy.

Everyone was overjoyed when a cute little donkey was the result. Chula looks adorable with her dark brown fur and white legs. She also has white circles around her eyes. She is a cuddly donkey, who loves attention and petting. So beware: before you know it, she's jumping on your lap!

This beautiful donkey has been provided with a chip, just like all the other donkeys. On the chip is information about the donkey and its medical history.

The donkeys at the sanctuary have a lot of friends with whom they can play all day long. And they love living there: they are well-cared for, they are fed and watered and when they are sick the vet is called. Yes, they are expensive customers for the sanctuary.

The volunteers are trying to cover the various costs with all kinds of activities and the sale of great donkey memorabilia



in the shop. Fortunately, there are also visitors who wish to adopt a donkey, who buy something at the donkey shop or who make a donation. Thus they help support us.

**Everyone is welcome to visit the sanctuary, which has opening hours from 9 am until 4 pm and in the weekend from 10 am until 3. Entry is free of charge and one can enjoy a soft drink, a cup of coffee or a refreshing ice cream.**

The volunteers of the sanctuary are hoping that somebody will adopt this friendly, lovely donkey. Of course the donkey will keep on living at

the sanctuary, you only need to pay AWG. 30,- per month for the donkey's keep. With this amount you help support the sanctuary as well as your own donkey. And you will receive a beautiful certificate and a super T-shirt and your name and photo will be posted on our website.

*So please call the sanctuary at 593-2933; you can also register via the website [www.arubandonkey.org](http://www.arubandonkey.org) or donate money on bank account number 40.03.025 at the Aruba Bank! Just do it! Would you like to follow the donkeys on Facebook: surf to Donkey Sanctuary Aruba please.*



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## New social network aims for real-time connections

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Walk into a room of people, and your smartphone can tell if you have a connection to any of them, if it can find the right data.

A social networking app called SocialRadar released Thursday analyzes smartphone users' social networks including Facebook and Twitter, and correlates that with location data, to let people know in real time about their connections to those around them.

While some apps already use geolocation data, SocialRadar aggregates information from major social networks and matches that with a smartphone's location for "real-time intelligence."

This means you can see in real time the people around you with whom you share a connection across several services.

"There are over a billion people with smartphones, and more than two billion social media profiles in the cloud, but no intersection of that information," says SocialRadar founder and chief executive Michael Chasen.

Chasen, 41, who founded the education software tool Blackboard in 1997 and sold it in 2011 for \$1.7 billion, says SocialRadar can be useful for business networking as well as for socializing.

SocialRadar aggregates and merges data from top social networks including Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, Instagram, Foursquare and Google+ with live location information from smartphones.

This enables users to find colleagues, friends, and friends of friends if they are connected

on one of the networks.

For technical and privacy reasons, SocialRadar provides this information only where users already have a connection, such as on Facebook or another network, or if they use SocialRadar. But Chasen said that still represents a lot of connections.

The app can create alerts or search within a specific radius -- from a few hundred meters (yards) to several kilometers (miles) -- for people with connections.

SocialRadar has been released in North America for the iOS platform for iPhones, and a version is in the works for Android and for Google Glass -- which would enable users to get information delivered for easy viewing.

## Speech requires both sides of brain

PARIS (AFP) - Humans need both sides of their brain for speech, according to a study Wednesday that could rewrite therapy for people verbally impaired by a stroke.

A mainstream theory in neurology is that speech and language are "lateralised" skills -- thus controlled by only one side of the brain, in this case the left.

But the concept's weak point is that it has been mainly based on indirect, rather than direct, observation of how the brain operates.

Researchers at New York University seized a unique opportunity to get a clearer view.

They worked with 16 volunteers who had electrodes implanted to map their brain activity -- a technique called

electrocorticogram that is used as a precursor for surgery for extreme epilepsy.

It is considered even more accurate than 3D scanning in determining when and where neurons are fired.

The volunteers were asked to repeat nonsense words such as "pob" and "kig" in order to isolate brain areas activated for speech -- the pronunciation of words.

Because these words had no meaning, a different part of the brain was used to generate them than the area used for language -- which entails understanding words and using them in sentences.

The scans revealed that speech is in fact "bilateralised" -- meaning that areas in both hemispheres of the brain are

harnessed in making words, said the study published in the British scientific journal Nature.

The specific areas are the bilateral inferior frontal and the inferior parietal, superior temporal, premotor and somatosensory cortices.

"Our findings upend what has been universally accepted," associate professor Bijan Pesaran said in a press release. "We can begin to develop new ways to aid those trying to regain the ability to speak after a stroke or injuries resulting in brain damage."

"With this greater understanding of the speech process, we can retool rehabilitation methods in ways that isolate speech recovery and don't involve language."

## Controversial scientist claims pesticide toxicity 'proof'

PARIS (AFP) - A controversial French biologist, whose 2012 paper on the alleged dangers of pesticides was withdrawn, has published new claims that the chemicals were many times more toxic than advertised.

Gilles-Eric Seralini's earlier work found that rats exposed to genetically modified maize and the pesticide Roundup developed tumours and other health problems, but his findings were questioned and his paper in the journal Food and Chemical Toxicology finally retracted after his study methods were found lacking.

He told AFP on Thursday that follow-up tests, this time using human cells, showed that Roundup and other pesticides that can be bought over the counter were "between two and 1,000 times more toxic than their main, active ingredient".

This was problematic, said Seralini, as the toxicity of the active ingredient is what determines product guidelines for accepted exposure levels to the pesticide being used.

Seralini's earlier paper was quashed after it prompted probes of pesticide safety by several national health agencies as well as the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA).

The new study was published in the journal Biomed Research International, co-signed by two of Seralini's colleagues at the University of Caen in France.

It tested three herbicides (Roundup, Matin El and Starane 200), three insecticides (Pirimor G, Confidor and Polysect Ultra), and three fungicides (Maronee, Opus and Eyetak).

Neither Roundup manufacturer Monsanto nor the EFSA could be reached for comment on Thursday.

The findings were welcomed by the French NGO Generations Futures (Future Generations), which demanded full disclosure of all the ingredients of pesticides.



**"Green purchasing" means buying smart. Shop with the environment in mind—that is, buy products that help conserve natural resources, save energy, and prevent waste. Green purchasing can also mean not buying things you don't need. By educating yourself about the products you buy, you can make a difference in protecting the environment.**

**Buy smart. Take some time to think before you buy something—maybe you don't really need it. Maybe you can think of an alternative to buying a product, such as renting a DVD instead of buying it or sending a free e-card instead of a paper birthday card.**

**Buy durable products. Instead of buying disposable products, which are wasteful, buy things that will last a long time, such as rechargeable batteries and reusable plastic mugs for drinks.**

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**Daily Exchange Rates**

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Currency	Code	Buying rate banknotes	Buying Cheques	Selling Rate
U.S.A.	USD	1.77	1.78	1.80
Dutch Antilles	ANG	98.00	100.00	100.20
Canada	CAD	1.77	1.79	1.61
Britain	GBP	2.80	2.85	2.98
Switzerland	CHF	191.71	192.43	199.02
Netherlands	EUR	230.59	232.69	244.19
Sweden	SEK	25.91	26.63	27.90
Denmark	DKK	30.23	30.95	32.96
Norway	NOK	30.67	31.39	29.08
Japan	JPY	214.88	216.84	175.32

(per 10,000)  
All rates for amounts up to AWG 100,00 per item.

## Facebook powers higher on earnings, unveils new app

NEW YORK (AFP) - Facebook shares jumped to record highs Thursday, buoyed by news of stronger-than-expected profits and sizzling gains in mobile advertising revenue.

The gains came as Facebook introduced a new mobile app aimed at becoming a social newspaper of sorts for the members of the world's biggest social network.

The stock ended up 14.1 percent at an all-time closing high of \$61.08 a day after Facebook reported that profit in the fourth quarter jumped eightfold from a year earlier to \$523 million, boosting its net income for the year to \$1.5 billion.

Mark Mahaney at RBC Capital Markets said he was "more positive" on Facebook after the strong quarterly report.

"The most important Internet trend by far is MOBILE, and Facebook has become a MOBILE company," he wrote in a research note.

Scott Devitt at Morgan Stanley said Facebook's results "show no signs of slowing mo-

bile momentum" and noted that the company has managed to skillfully get more ad revenues.

The figures suggest that "Facebook improves its ability to make ads more relevant and less intrusive to users," he said in a research note.

In another sign of its focus on mobile, Facebook unveiled its new app called "Paper," an online newspaper for viewing and sharing articles and other content from a smartphone.

"Paper makes storytelling more beautiful with an immersive design and fullscreen, distraction-free layouts," Facebook said in a blog post announcing the new service.

The app, the first product from Facebook Creative Labs, will be available February 3 for iPhone users.

Paper presents stories and themed sections to allow people to follow topics ranging from news headlines to food to sports and science.

It has a tiled design that allows users to customize the display alongside a personal Facebook feed.

The partners in Paper were not named, but a video released by Facebook showed a user scrolling articles and content from The New York Times, Time magazine, USA Today, The Huffington Post and others.

The app will allow for full-screen viewing of videos and will "make it easy to spot articles from trusted publishers and decide what to read or watch," it added.

Facebook said users could tilt their phones to scroll through high-resolution panoramic photos and to zoom into details like faces.

## US growth brings reprieve for markets, emerging currencies

LONDON (AFP) - Strong US growth figures brought a reprieve to markets on Thursday after a Federal Reserve stimulus cut rattled emerging economy currencies despite rate rises by India, South Africa and Turkey.

European stocks initially fell after the Fed's announcement it would reduce its bond-buying program by \$10 billion to \$65 billion per month, citing a pick-up in the US economy.

But the mood turned around after the announcement that the US economy grew at a stronger-than-expected annual rate of 3.2 percent in the fourth quarter.

By the end of trade, Frankfurt's DAX 30 added 0.39 percent and the CAC 40 in Paris rose 0.55 percent. London's FTSE 100 was marginally lower.

And on Wall Street, the news on fourth quarter economic growth, as well as some significantly strong corporate earnings results, notably Facebook's, drove a firm rebound.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average ended up 0.70 percent, the broader S&P 500 1.13 percent, and the Nasdaq Composite, powered by strong gains in Facebook, Twitter, Google and other online ad-dependent tech stocks, jumped 1.77 percent.

Earlier, Asian markets, which mostly finished trading ahead of the US GDP announcement, fell heavily again on the news the US central bank further reduced its quantitative easing (QE) stimulus overnight.

In currencies, the emerging market economies hurt most by the turmoil, Russia's ruble, the South African rand, Turkey's lira, Brazil's real and the Indian rupee were all either flat or stronger, even as the dollar itself surged against other major currencies.

The Fed justified its second cut in as many months to the quantitative easing stimulus program -- bringing it to \$65 billion a month from \$85 billion in December -- citing "growing underlying strength in the broader economy."

Combined with the US October-December growth data, that was good news for a global economy worried about slower growth in China, a key motor for emerging and poorer economies because it buys so many raw materials from them.

The rebound however did not necessarily spell a respite from more turmoil. The Fed's move slows down the flow of easy money into the global financial marketplace, while stronger US growth boosts the attractiveness of the US to capital.

And as a result of both, US dollar yields went up as well, another pull on capital from more risky markets.

Meanwhile, developing countries face their own challenges of slower growth and, for many, high inflation.

Monetary tightening in a number of countries "will have a very negative effect on investment and consumption," said Philippe Martin of France's Sciences Po university.

In addition, falling currencies where governments and the private sector have high US dollar-denominated debt "will see their debt explode," he warned.

"There would then be contagion via international trade," hitting growth for the world economy.

Nick Stamenkovic at RIA Capital Markets in London said "emerging market volatility looks set to continue."

"Rate hikes in Turkey and South Africa have failed to lift their beleaguered currencies as investors fret about the adverse impact on growth in both countries."

Stamenkovic said those most at risk are countries suffering from sizeable current account deficits which are heavily dependent on capital inflows.

Economist Neil MacKinnon at Russian firm VTB Capital, described the outlook as "poor" for emerging nations, adding that rate increases were "unsustainable" and hurt growth.

"It is poor fundamentals rather than Fed tapering which is keeping pressure on" countries like Brazil, India, Indonesia, Turkey and South Africa, which investors have taken to calling the fragile five.

"Raising interest rates to defend currencies is not sustainable given the impact on those countries' economic growth," he added.

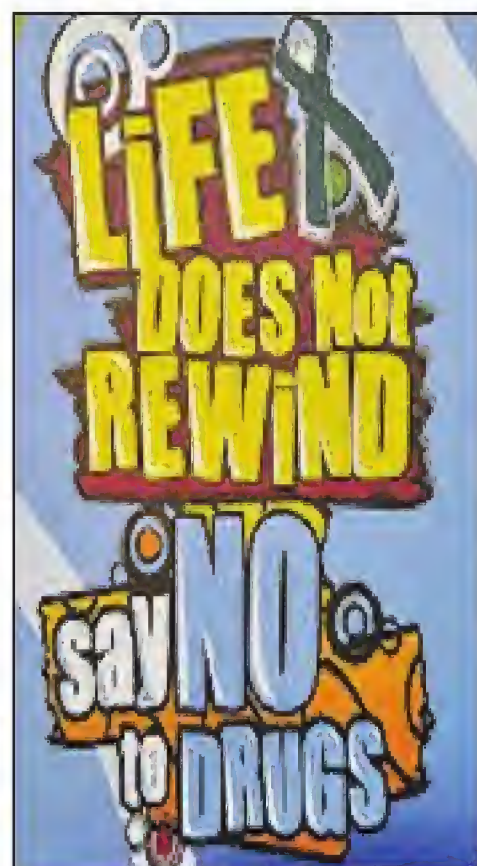
Argentina's plight underscores the challenges. The central bank reported another \$2.1 billion fall in foreign reserves to just \$28.5 billion this month as it sought to defend the peso, which nevertheless is down more than 18 percent since January 1.

In Russia, where the ruble hit an all-time low against the euro, there was talk that the Central Bank may delay a planned 2015 free-float of the currency because of its precipitous drop.

The Russian Central Bank reported spending more than \$1.1 billion on the Moscow Exchange on Monday and analysts said they suspected an even larger sum was used up both on Wednesday and Thursday to support the currency.

### YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

O	R	T				S	O	B	S	
B	O	W	S			G	A	R	R	E
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COMICS

PICKLES

I'M A WANNABE COWBOY, I DON'T RIDE A HORSE.

MY MOUNT IS THIS WORN-OUT RECLINER, OF COURSE.

IT'S EASY TO RIDE, AND IT DON'T CHAFE MY HIDE...

'CAUSE WE'RE BOTH VERY COMFORTABLY WIDE.

MOMMA

HEY, FRANCIS! WAIT FOR ME!!

HOT DOG! HERE'S FRED!

GEE, YOU LOOK HAPPY TO SEE ME!

YOU BET I AM!

YOU GO FIRST!

CALVIN and HOBBS

CROSSWORD

CROSSWORD

see our website:  
www.themorningnewsaruba.com

ACROSS

(abbr.)

1 Singer Jones

4 Morning's beginning

8 Harpsichord's cousin

10 "...sting like \_\_\_" (2 wds.)

11 Mexican resort

12 Disen-cumbers

13 Out of school

14 Most trite

16 Killed, as a dragon

18 Compass dir.

19 Indian emblem

21 Elopers tie them

25 Org. that helps motorists

27 Biblical prophet

28 Pull \_\_\_ up by the

bootstraps

32 Light furniture wood

33 Mineral vein

34 Royal son

36 Like a villain

37 Bee's product

38 Feed bag filler

39 Turkish title

DOWN

1 Tic-\_\_\_-toe

2 Load

3 Three-card

4 "Rose-anne" daughter

5 Irish

6 Gets married

7 Oriole's home

8 Picasso's first name

9 Map feature

11 Hurl

15 Inquire

17 Small mammals

20 Daisy \_\_\_

22 Pure air

23 Actor Spencer

24 Purpose

26 From \_\_\_ to omega

28 Butter dish pretender

29 Flaring star

30 Rewrite

31 Leaping amphibian

35 \_\_\_ bind (2 wds.)

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SOLUTION

8	4	5	7	6	9	1	2	3
2	6	9	1	5	8	7	4	3
3	7	1	6	2	8	4	9	5
7	2	1	9	8	6	5	3	4
6	9	3	1	5	2	7	4	8
5	1	8	6	7	4	9	3	2
9	3	2	5	1	6	8	7	4
4	5	7	8	9	3	2	1	6
1	8	6	2	9	7	5	4	3

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## Excellent dining, charming ambiance and a breathtaking view found only at *La Trattoria El Faro Blanco*



**The Outside Deck**

-- Over twenty years ago, a very clever person had the idea of placing a cozy little restaurant on the top of the cliff adjacent to the California Lighthouse, offering the most stunning view of Aruba imaginable. La Trattoria el Faro Blanco took over the location some years ago, and

the restaurant's quaint trappings, superb selection and amenable staff has made it a one of the island's most popular dining spots ever since.

Savoring the sight of a spectacular Aruban sunset and the tiered layout of the eatery also makes it the ideal spot for marking a special oc-

casión, such as an anniversary or a marriage proposal, as well as a perfect venue for weddings or a celebratory party. An extensive and diverse menu and wine list allows those planning a special festivity will be able to devise a memorable event and management is ready and willing to help you stay within your budget.

Many have taken note of this singular location as the place to go for that memorable romantic meal, and their reservation staff reports a waiting list for the rail tables that offer the best unobstructed view, recommending reservations well in advance if this is important to you.

The restaurant is now open from early in the day for refreshments, and is the per-

fect lunch stop while touring, serving from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM, after which visitors can enjoy a light snack from their Pizza Mini Menu until 6:00 PM when they officially open for dinner, until 11:00 PM.

All these aspects of charming surroundings, dining al fresco with a breathtaking view

(or in their enclosed air-conditioned dining room, if you prefer) and fine food makes La Trattoria El Faro the single dining experience that must not be missed before departing Aruba.

**Reservations can**

be made by calling 586-0786 or 586-0787, or via e-mail link at their website, [www.aruba-latrattoria.com](http://www.aruba-latrattoria.com), where you can peruse their latest menu, as Chef Alberto is always devising some tasty new specialty to take advantage of what is fresh for the season.

**Osso Buco with  
Risotto bon**



## Gold Coast Aruba: This is the time to invest

-- Management of Gold Coast Aruba, the island's newest and most innovative gated community, reports that sales have been very good and encouraging as the global economy recovers and people looking to purchase vacation homes have found that Gold Coast is an outstanding investment value. Director of Sales, Fito Croes has noticed a surprising percentage of owners in reality do not spend a great amount of time personally to use the villas or town homes they purchase, but are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their 'home away from home' in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," he remarked, "but I am gratified by how many are buying because they felt secure with real estate investment on Aruba. They really study the history and economy of the island and are impressed with the political stability and continually increasing value of prime locations. Gold Coast is in the heart of Malmok, considered Aruba's most exclusive community where the value of properties has only increased over time. It is only minutes to the best beaches and all the action, and yet offers a quiet and secluded get-



away, we are very pleased by the response to our concept."

Fito, with his sister Mayrin and brother Rudy operate Cas Bon, which has been constructing homes and building developments for all budgets for nearly twenty years. "Gold Coast Aruba is the jewel in our crown," observes Fito. "We were very excited about this project and the scope of actual and planned facilities and amenities. We have spoken to countless island visitors to find out what they would really want in a permanent residence on Aruba, and took from there."

Input from frequent vacationers who have dreamed of their own home in Aruba contributed to the realization of Gold Coast Aruba which when

complete will be a community of 260 town homes, villas and condominiums with a stunning clubhouse complemented by two additional community pool areas. The Clubhouse is about to start construction and will offer to the community homeowners and visitors 2 tennis courts, full service spa and fitness center as well as a stunning pool area and is expected to be complete by early 2013. It will also house a restaurant and mini-market.

Owners who purchased upon the groundbreaking only a few short years ago, are already enjoying a nearly 50% appreciation on their investment, particularly those taking advantage of the on site management's rental services program. There is always a great demand for Aruba and facili-

ties such as those at Gold Coast, make it easy for some owners to see a valuable return on their investment.

The design of the residences and public areas is open, airy and spacious, taking full advantage of the island environment, with quality construction and finishing available. Partnering with two of Aruba's top providers of kitchens and bathrooms enables developers to offer custom options allowing buyers to individualize their homes. An elegant and chic furniture package is available or island designers will assist owners in finishing the décor to their specific tastes.

There are many aspects to purchasing property; not the least is the future value of the

investment. To further enhance this, Gold Coast management have inaugurated a number of in-house services and have recently become affiliated Interval International, the world's largest network of vacation ownership properties which provides an unlimited international pool of investors to tap for ownership and rental prospects. Property exchange for a vacation in another destination is also available through the Interval International affiliation. Gold Coast's own rental services have also proven highly successful in assisting owners in renting their villas; 24-hour security and maintenance services also tip the scales when it is time to make a decision. Aside from all this, housekeeping, child care, catering services, car rental through its partnership with AVIS car rental are also available as well as pre-shopping services so cupboards and refrigerators are stocked upon arrival, which can also be arranged through their property management department. Personnel are also available to assist in arranging restaurant reservations and island activities.

**Visit their website: [www.goldcoastaruba.com](http://www.goldcoastaruba.com) for more details and availability or call 586-2200 to arrange a personal tour.**



## Mad men eye record Super Bowl ad extravaganza

NEW YORK (AFP) - What do the Muppets, Greek yogurt and Arnold Schwarzenegger have in common? They're all starring in the most expensive four hours of American television ever.

This Sunday's Super Bowl is not only America's biggest sporting event -- it's one of the biggest advertising pay checks on the planet, when a record \$4 million buys 30 seconds of air-time.

The battle is on to capture the imagination, and the wallets, of 110 million Americans expected to watch the Denver Broncos take on the Seattle Seahawks in the National Football League championship.

Bigger in the United States than the Olympics, the Grammy Awards and the Oscars, the Super Bowl sees companies go head to head, battling ferociously to capture the market share.

More than 40 advertisers, from luxury cars to pistachios, have bought ads from 30 seconds to two minutes in what experts say is the most expensive advertising ever in US history.

"The hype is reaching a new level. More and more advertisers are putting together very elaborate campaigns," said Tim Calkins, marketing professor at Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management.

In the age of Facebook, Twitter and YouTube, companies now preview their half-time ads with teasers designed to maximize online buzz as broadcasters Fox and the NFL eye record profits.

"This year is a lot about social media and so the game is transforming from a one-time event into a weeks-long social media extravaganza," Calkins told AFP.

Relative upstart SodaStream hogged the headlines by hiring sexy Hollywood star Scarlett Johansson to smolder in an ad banned by Fox for taking a swipe at rivals Coke and Pepsi.

SodaStream complained, but the ban -- and controversy about its factory in the Israeli-occupied West Bank -- turned the ad into an online phenomenon clocking up thousands of hits on YouTube.

Big hitters have gone for the clever or the farcical, releasing their ads in full or in "teaser" form, and even setting up "making of" websites to encourage people to share and comment.



Jaguar Superbowl ad



KIA Superbowl ad

Audi's teaser features a couple who compromise on their choice of dog: crossing a Doberman with a Chihuahua to make a rampaging "Doberhuhua" guilty of mass mayhem.

It ends with the punch line, "Compromise scares us too."

Generating a huge buzz is Anheuser-Busch InBev, which has ads for Bud Light and Budweiser -- one starring Schwarzenegger dressed Bjorn Borg-style with blond hair warning up for table tennis.

Its elaborate teaser campaign features six different commercials encouraging people to watch on Sunday night.

Toyota has roped in the Muppets, Dannon's Oikos yogurt is using a canoodling couple and there's schmaltz in Unilever's "Make Love, Not War" commercial for men's deodorant Axe.

A mixed-race family that generated a racist backlash but was largely viewed favorably is back for Cheerios, and retired English footballer David Beckham will be selling H&M underwear.

Jaguar is making its Super Bowl debut with a sexy one-minute ad directed by Oscar-winner Tom Hooper and starring a trio of British actors as "British villains" led by Ben Kingsley.

It's a stylish late-night helicopter-car chase through London featuring the new F-TYPE

Jaguar Coupe with a masterful Kingsley delivering the final punch line: "Oh yes, it's good to be bad."

"The teasers are meant to get people talking so that they are primed for paying attention during the telecast," said Matt Miller, president and CEO of the Association of Independent Commercial Producers.

"With the ad time on the rise and more tie-ins leveraging the half-time show and the NYC venue, Fox and the NFL are poised to make record profits on this game."

Stuart Schorr, a spokesman for Jaguar Land Rover North America, said the Super Bowl will kick off a \$25 million advertising launch of the new F-TYPE coupe, which goes on sale in the spring.

In the first 24 hours after being posted online, the ad got 1.66 million viewers, he said, noting the whole point of the company's campaign was to engage the audience on social media.

A few companies are still protecting the element of surprise -- among them Chrysler, which has traditionally enjoyed huge success in capturing the Super Bowl market.

"I think in the US, people like to see companies competing," said Calkins. "People love this advertising and people love to see what these companies are going to do."

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### BRIEFS:



SAN DIEGO (AFP) : Great Britain's Davis Cup team pose for a team photograph L-R Dominic Inglot, Andy Murray, captain Leon Smith, James Ward and Colin Fleming, Kyle Edmund and backroom staff after the draw ceremony prior to the Davis Cup World Group first round between the U.S. and Great Britain at PETCO Park on January 30, 2014 in San Diego, California.



NEW YORK (AFP): Singer Bruno Mars speaks during the Pepsi Super Bowl XLVIII Halftime Show Press Conference at the Rose Theater, Jazz at Lincoln Center on January 30, 2014 in New York City.



CZECH REPUBLIC (AFP) : Maxim Tsvetkov of Russia reacts after crossing the finish line of the 20 km men's individual race at the IBU Biathlon European Championships in Nove Mesto na Morave, Czech Republic on January 30, 2014. Bjoentegaard finished third.




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## NBA: Durant's Thunder cool off Heat

MIAMI (AFP) - LeBron James won the last two MVP awards but his grip on the trophy could be slipping after Kevin Durant's Oklahoma City Thunder dominated the Miami Heat 112-95 Wednesday.

Durant, who has finished second to James in MVP voting three times in his career, scored 33 points to stretch his 30-or-more points streak to a dozen contests.

Durant said he looks forward to these contests against the two-time defending champion Heat and he's not taking anything for granted.

James finished with a game-high 34 points in front of a crowd of 19,673 at American Airlines Arena but it wasn't enough to give the Heat their fourth straight win at home.

This was a rematch of the



2011-2012 NBA finals and the Thunder and Heat remain two of the best teams in the league, but it didn't live up to the pre-game hype.

Durant shot 12-of-23 from the floor and added seven rebounds and five assists for the Thunder, who have won nine straight games.

Miami stormed out to a huge lead in the opening minutes, but the Thunder outscored them 110-77 the rest of the way.

Durant has carried the Thunder on his back during the latest win streak. On Monday, he scored 41 against the Atlanta Hawks, including the winning jumper with less than two seconds left.

His 30 or more points in 12 straight games is the longest streak of its kind since Tracy

McGrady did it in 14 consecutive contests in March-April 2003.

Oklahoma's Serge Ibaka nailed a jump shot for the opening points, but the Heat answered with a 18-0 surge.

The Heat compiled a 22-4 lead before the Thunder responded with 12 straight points. Durant had a three-point play and hit a pair of free throws to cut the Heat's lead to 22-16.

The Thunder continued to roll, taking the lead halfway through the second quarter. Durant finished off a 9-0 surge when he grabbed a Reggie Jackson's pass for a reverse layup that gave the Thunder a 46-44 lead.

Durant finished with 16 points in the first half.

### Court drops charges in sex case



Paris (AFP) : This combination made on January 20, 2014 shows AFP file images of French international footballers Franck Ribery and Karim Benzema (L) and a picture of French designer Zahia Dehar taken in Paris on July 3, 2013. A Paris on Thursday dropped the case against the footballers, who had been accused of having sex with underage prostitute Zahia Dehar.

## Athlete Jenifer Piter preparing for 2014 South American Games



ORANJESTAD - Within a matter of weeks the X South American Games will begin in Santiago, Chile. The games are scheduled for the 7th to 18th of March. These games are a competition between South American countries of the Sports Organization of South America (ODESUR). The Aruban Olympic Committee (COA) is proud to inform the public of the delegation for these games. Soon they will host interviews with all of the delegates to give the community an opportunity to meet them personally. For several years, female athlete Jenifer Piter has been practicing the sport of weight lifting. Last year Jennifer achieved tremendous results in two international competitions in Santo Domingo and in Puerto Rico. She achieved a total of five gold medals. In the South American Games, Jennifer will compete in the 63kg category. Jennifer is practicing diligently for the South American Games in Chile. According to Jennifer, the training is hard and varied, but she is seeing constant improvement. She trains no less than 5 to 6 times per week, 3 hours per day doing different exercises and lifting weights such as Snatch, Clean and Jerk, Squat and other basic exercises to help her improve her final results. To represent Aruba is something great for Jennifer. She is convinced that despite coming from a small island, there is the potential for achieving great things and to compete against others from big countries in the region. Piter indicated that her primary goal in Chile will be to improve her personal record in Snatch and Clean and Jerk. Her dream is to one day classify for the Pan American Games. And, who knows, from there move on to the Olympic Games. Jennifer advises all athletes to train hard and constant and try to get farther each time in this sport of weight lifting.

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Tel: 588-9517 / Fax: 588-9518  
E-mail:  
themorningnewsaruba@gmail.com  
Website:  
www.themorningnewsaruba.com



## Brazilian skier seriously injured ahead of Sochi Games



RIO DE JANEIRO (AFP) - Brazilian freestyle skier Lais Souza, who was to compete in the Winter Olympics in Russia, is unable to move her arms and legs following a training accident in the United States.

A medical bulletin posted on the website of the Brazilian Olympic Committee said Souza was "in serious condition even though she remains conscious".

They said they were still hopeful that the paralysis would not be permanent.

During training in the western US state of Utah Monday, the 25-year-old Souza, who competed as a gymnast in the summer Olympics in Athens (2004) and Beijing (2008), slammed into a tree.

Souza underwent surgery to realign her spine and can now move her shoulders and two more operations are scheduled.

Souza chose to switch to freestyle skiing and to compete in her first winter Olympics in Sochi next month.



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## Barracudas swimming team returns with numerous medals

ORANJESTAD - Athletes of the Aruba Barracudas Synchro Club participated in two Curacao Sharks Aquatics Invitationals on the 24th and 25th of January. Dozens of Curacao athletes and from Aruba competed in the Bennie Leito Pool in the categories of 8 years and under, 12 and under, 13-15 and 16-18 years.

With a fantastic view of the cruise terminal in Otrobanda, the athletes of Aruba competed in the categories of solo, duet, trio, team and figure. On Friday, the Aruban athletes, Angelina Hamoen in category 8 and under and Zuriene Dabian in category 12 and under gave a solo presentation. This presentation resulted in both girls winning a gold medal. On Betico Day the athletes did two great duet presentations by athletes Nakeisha Jacobs and Jasiliene Schmidt in category 13-15B, Meghan Tromp and Zuriene Dabian in category 12 and under. Both duets won gold medals. Aruba also presented a trio by athletes Angelina Hamoen, Caroline Alvarz and Janelly Pena. Under the rhythm of Madagascar the trio succeeded in winning a gold medal.

The team presentation was by Sarah Silva, Casey-Ann



Hermosen, Zuriene Dabian, and Meghan Tromp. These too won a gold medal. In figure swimming Angelina Hamoen won first place in the beginners category. In figure swimming in category 12 and under the Aruban athletes competed against each

other. First place went to Meghan Tromp, followed by Zuriene Dabian in second and Sarah Silva in third place.

Each solo, duet, trio and team winner received an additional prize for artistic impression. The Aruba



Barracudas ended up in second place overall based on their many gold medals. Stella Leslie of Aruba was the referee for the competitions.

Special congratulations to all our athletes, their coaches Alva Torres and Yami Romay

Arias and all the parents who provided their support to our athletes for the fantastic sport of synchronized swimming!

The Morningnews also Congratulates The Barracudas.

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